

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 17-32 are pending herein. Claims 20-25 and 29-31 are allowed. Claim 17 has been amended as supported by paragraphs [0025]-[0026] in the specification, for example. Claim 26 has been amended as supported by paragraph [0060] in the specification, for example. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Claims 17-19 and 26-28 were provisionally rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory double patenting over claims 1-3 of copending application No. 10/584,474, now U.S. Patent No. 7,442,670. To the extent that this rejection may be applied against the amended claims, it is respectfully traversed.

Claim 17 has been amended to recite, at least in part, that the modified polyvinylpyrrolidone resin is a copolymer of an N-vinylpyrrolidone monomer with a vinyl polymerizable monomer. Claim 26 has been amended to recite, at least in part, that the modifying agent is at least one of carboxymethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetate propionate, dibutyl tartrate, dimethyl phthalate and shellac resins.

Amended claim 17 and 26 are compositionally distinguishable from the claims of the '670 patent because the '670 patent claims simply disclose an adhesive layer of a three-dimensionally crosslinked product of a polyvinylpyrrolidone resin. In contrast, amended claim 17 clearly recites that the modified polyvinylpyrrolidone resin is a copolymer of an N-vinylpyrrolidone monomer with a vinyl polymerizable monomer, and claim 26 clearly recites that the modifying agent is at least one of carboxymethylcellulose, cellulose acetate, cellulose acetate propionate, dibutyl tartrate, dimethyl phthalate and shellac resins. Thus, the adhesive layers of claims 17 and 26 are compositionally distinguishable from the adhesive layers recited in the claims of the '670 patent.

Based on the above, the claims of the '670 patent fail to teach or suggest each and every element of amended claims 17 and 26. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims herein are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for this application in due course.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date



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